

On the Town



Daring young ladies: The woman on the motorcycle (at right) is Carrie Moyer, Amandus Moyer's twin sister. Her passenger is unknown. It's hard to say if the young ladies are actually getting ready for a spin or just posing. The photo was loaned to the Times by Paul Moyer.

Frederick

On Saturday, September 8, Frederick Mennonite Community, located on Route 73 between Zieglerville and Gilbertsville, will be holding their 105th Anniversary Day Country Fair.

Frederick celebrates its 105th anniversary with activities for all ages. The festivities begin at 10 a.m. with a country auction. The annual quilt auction will begin at 1 p.m. There will be crafters, a food court and flea market. Frederick's Auxiliary president, Lori Hartzell, said, "It's wholesome fun for the whole family. Throughout the day, there will be lots of children's activities, including horse and wagon rides, moon walk and a petting zoo."

For more information, call 610-754-7878.

Berks farms become masterworks

Fleetwood-based artist Joyce Floreen captures farm scenes from Berks County, including several from the Boyertown area.



Joyce Floreen

By Robyn Jasko
Berks-Mont Writer

With Joyce Floreen's newest show titled *The Century Farms of Berks County: Paintings*, this Fleetwood-based artist exhibits paintings that depict a dying breed in Berks County-working farms.

Opening on September 23 at the artist's studio in Fleetwood, Floreen's exhibition consists of 40 oil paintings of 100-plus-year farms chosen by the Pennsylvania State Department of Agriculture as Century Farms of Berks County. All of the Century Farms were also included in the National Register of Historic places.

Local Century Farms depicted in Floreen's exhibition include Mark and Bernice Hoch's 1728 farm in Oley, Frank and Hilda Fisher's 1790 farm in Oley, Nevin, Kerlin, Arlan, Elva and Nelson Moyer's 1815 farm in Boyertown, Raymond G. and Erma Kreibel's 1843 farm in Hereford, Raymond S. Kreibel's 1843 farm in Barto and Woodrow and Eleanor Rothenberger's 1868 farm in Oley.

Throughout the state of Pennsylvania, around 3,000 farms have received the honor of being named a Century Farm since the award program began in 1976.

In a display consisting of forty oil paintings, the artist not only creates a picture of farm life, but also captures the essence of the agricultural community.

"The impact of weather and light on the farms and fields may only last for a few seconds, but these moments are part of a lifetime of renewable joy," said Floreen. "This is a vital aspect of painting that reaches beyond the solely



Berks-Mont Photo by Harold Hoch

The Moyer Farm, located on Oysterdale Road, Boyertown, is one of 40 works created by Joyce Floreen.

representational to draw a response that is a communication between the scene, the artist, the painting and the viewer."

Floreen said that she is most inspired by the relationship between nature and the man-made materials that can be found in rural environments.

"Because of the relentless encroachment of suburbia, the scenes of some of my earlier paintings have disappeared. A real place at a real time is tied intangibly to the special way the viewer sees it and feels it," said Floreen. "Because of this, I wanted to record the Century Farms as they exist today. Even if these farms are still here 10, 20 or even 100 years from now, the landscapes and communities in which they exist will be different."



caught in the webb

•Happy birthday to **Chuck Staso**. He will be 40 years old on September 9.

•Happy 80th birthday to **Philip Bechtel** of Gilbertsville. He will celebrate this milestone on September 9.

•Next time you see **Clark Gilbert**, ask him how it feels to be a good samaritan. He helped two thirsty girls who were stuck in traffic recently.

•**Harold Hoch**, Oley Valley's original ladies man, celebrates the big 5-0 on September 7. Harold insists that he never looked better. We here at the Times office have been biting our tongues all week, but we decided it would be just too easy. The "buff" Hoch, as he prefers to be called around the office, has been with the Times for 31 years, mostly because the office receptionists bring in free baked goods.

•The next time you see **Carol Bauman** of Merkel Road, Gilbertsville, ask her about her game-winning hit into the trees at the family picnic on Labor Day weekend. Her teammates carried her off the field on their shoulders.

•Ask **Brenda Stauffer**, of Powder Mill Hollow Road, Boyertown, about her imitation of the **Pete Rose** head-first slide into second base at the same picnic.

•Isn't the first amendment wonderful? Thanks to our forefathers, we have "Caught in the Webb," Boyertown's best way to embarrass your friends. So call us at 610-367-6041. It's what **Ben Franklin** would want.



The oil painting above depicts the Brown Farm, located on Brown's Mill Road, Douglassville.

Lost treasures may be uncovered Sept. 15

By Jason Weitzel
Berks-Mont Staff

Those of us in the Boyertown area who watch the popular series "Antiques Roadshow" and always wanted to have something appraised will get the opportunity to do so next Saturday in Fleetwood.

The First Annual Antique Verbal Appraisal Clinic will be held Saturday, September 15 from 9-4 p.m. in the Fleetwood Community Center. The event is sponsored by the East Penn Valley Kiwanis Club.

Harry Rinker, a renowned antique expert and collector from Emmaus, will provide a verbal, out-loud and on-stage appraisal for your most prized possessions.

The cost is \$6 per object; \$15 for three items, but it is necessary to call to set up an

appraisal time to ensure your items will be seen.

For those of us concerned with waiting in long lines to have objects appraised, expect the line to move very quickly. Rinker averages thirty-five appraisals an hour at his clinics, which busily take him throughout the country and overseas for most of the year.

It's safe to say he has seen almost every type of antique imaginable. "I expect to see three types of objects at each show," said Rinker. "The first kind: family heirlooms – items passed down from grandma. Frequently, family value is more important to the owner than what the object is actually worth. Second, people bring in items they have questions about. Third, people will try to stump the expert."

Specifically, he expects to see lots of

Pennsylvania Dutch items: redware, coverlets, quilts, furniture, farming equipment, antique guns, prints and silverware; most of us have at least one of these stashed away in the attic or cellar.

"The market for Pennsylvania Dutch antiques is strong but quiet right now," he said, mentioning that an exception would be Pennsylvania Dutch folk carvings.

For those looking to sell their antiques, the appraisal clinic is the wrong place. Rinker is ethically obligated not to purchase anything at his shows.

"I'm not a dealer or an auctioneer. I make my living being a neutral party. I can only recommend you to an auction house."

That's not to say he doesn't collect antiques himself. He does, over 250 different collections, including historic Pennsylvania German and Moravian

antiques, a 30-year run of Sports Illustrated magazines, over 5,000 jigsaw puzzles and a large collection of sports games.

Rinker has been a collector all his life. He grew up in Hellertown.

"I come from the old Pennsylvania Dutch philosophy creed: 'It's too good to throw out,' or 'You never know when you may need it.'"

A big collection requires a big place to display it, and he has that too: a 14,000-square-foot school with six, full-size classrooms, a cafeteria and an auditorium.

Rinker writes regular columns for the *Morning Call* and also wrote regular columns for the *Kutztown Area Patriot's* sister newspaper, the *Quakertown Free Press*. He has authored many books about antiques and collectibles, considered the